Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
----------002264 231157Z /11
R 230928Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4365
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 12634

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI/ICRC MEETINGS AND AGREEMENT

REF: A. GENEVA 18089; B. TEL AVIV 10362; C. JERUSALEM 2093

1. A MAJOR PART OF RECENT LUNCHEON SESSION BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR OF ICRC OPERATIONS, JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE, THE DCM AND THE COUNSELOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS WAS DEVOTED TO AN EXPOSITION BY THE FORMER OF HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL WITH THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ICRC PRESIDENT, RICHARD PESTALOZZI, NOVEMBER 17-27, AS REPORTED REFTELS. THE DISCUSSION IS REPORTED IN SOME DETAIL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ICRC HEADQUARTERS VIEWS ON THESE MEETINGS AND THEIR OUT-COME TO SUPPLEMENT THE EARLIER REPORTING. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO PROTECT THIS INFORMATION AND SOURCE.

2. HOCKE SEVERAL TIMES EMPHASIZED THAT, WHILE THE NEGO-TIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS HAD BEEN DIFFICULT AND OFTEN TEDIOUS, THE ICRC FELT THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND WERE GENUINELY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS. HOCKE REITERATED ICRC'S BELIEF THAT THESE FAVORABLE RESULTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

COULD NOT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED WITHOUT THE PRIOR INTERVEN-TION OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH THE ISRAELIS, WHICH MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES EXPECTED THE ISRAELIS TO BE REASONABLE IN DISCUSSING THE ISSUES AT STAKE.

3. HOCKE APPEARED TO PLACE PRIME EMPHASIS ON THE REDUC-TION OF MAXIMUM GOI NOTIFICATION TIME FOR ICRC ACCESS TO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

PRISONERS AFTER DETENTION FROM 30 DAYS TO 14 DAYS UNDER THE NEW FORMAT. HE STATED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD FIRST OFFERED A SEVEN-DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD, BUT WITH THE PROVISO THAT ICRC VISITATIONS BE ACCOMPANIED BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. THIS WAS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE ICRC AND THE 14-DAY LIMIT, WITHOUT ISRAELI ATTENDANCE, WAS FINALLY REACHED THROUGH COMPROMISES. (IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, HOCKE SAID THAT IN PRACTICE THE ISRAELIS HAD HERETOFORE EXERCISED THE MAXIMUM LIMIT FOR ADVICE TO THE ICRC OF DETAINEES.) HOCKE SAID THAT THERE WAS AN OBVIOUS, AND NOT UNEXPECTED DIVISION EVIDENT BETWEEN CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS DAYAN AND GENERAL ORLY (PH.) ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE SECURITY FORCES ON THE OTHER. ONE RED CROSS DILEMMA WAS NOT TO PRESS TOO HARD FOR TOO BRIEF A TIME INTERVAL PRIOR TO REQUIRED NOTIFICATION OF ARREST, LEST BY SO DOING, PRESSURES IMPOSED UPON SECURITY FORCES TO OBTAIN NEEDED INFORMATION FROM PRISONERS WOULD RESULT IN ADDITIONAL HAZARDS TO THE LATTER. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON, AS WELL, THAT THE ICRC WAS CONTENT TO CONCUR IN A LONGER TIME INTERVAL PRIOR TO NOTIFICATION THAN THE ISRAELI'S ORIGINAL 7-DAY PROPOSAL.

4. HOCKE SAID THAT THE ICRC WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PRISONERS WERE DETAINED. SOME, HE SAID, WERE PERMITTED ONLY ONE SQUARE METER OF SPACE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 12634 01 OF 02 231147Z

PER PRISONER IN THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE. THIS IS LESS THAN HALF THE MINIMUM AMOUNT CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE BY ICRC. RECREATION AREAS IN SOME INSTALLATIONS PERMIT ONLY ONE HOUR'S WALKING PER DAY PER PRISONER, WHICH THE ICRC REGARDS AS GROSSLY INSUFFICIENT. PRESENT ISRAELI PRISON CAPACITY IS ADEQUATE FOR 2,000 PRISONERS, WHEREAS ANYWHERE FROM 2,800 TO 3,300 ARE BEING HELD IN ISRAELI PRISONS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

5. HOCKE SAID THAT, INSOFAR AS THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, OVERT AND HARSH MEASURES TO FORCE ARAB OCCUPANTS OUT OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAD LARGELY BEEN ABANDONED. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THAT OTHER, MORE SUBTLE, MEANS WERE BEING EMPLOYED TO ACHIEVE THE SAME ENDS. HE CITED, FOR EXAMPLE, CONTROLS, SUCH AS PASSES, TO RETURN TO HOMESTEADS OR PROCEED TO FIELDS ("EVEN FOR FARM ANIMALS", HE SMILINGLY ADDED), WHICH EVENTUALLY INDUCED THE OCCUPANT TO MOVE ELSEWHERE, WHERE CONTROLS WERE LESS ONEROUS.

6. IN SPEAKING OF FAMILY REUNIONS, WHICH ICRC HAD PRESSED UPON THE ISRAELIS AS A HUMANITARIAN IMPERATIVE, HOCKE SAID

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THAT THE ICRC SUSPECTED THAT IN SOME DESIGNATED AREAS
THERE WAS A DELIBERATE POLICY NOT TO PERMIT YOUNGER MEM-
BERS TO REJOIN WIDOWS AND AGED SURVIVORS OF THE FAMILY IN
ORDER THAT, WHEN THESE LATTER DIED OFF, FAMILY LANDS WOULD
BE UNOCCUPIED AND THEREFORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CLAIM BY THE
STATE. WHILE UNDERSTANDING WHY THE GOI WOULD NOT WISH TO
PERMIT ACTIVE IDENTIFIED, OR EVEN SUSPECTED, ARAB GUER-
RILLAS TO RE-ENTER THOSE TERRITORIES, ICRC NONETHELESS
INTENDED TO PRESS THE GOI AS FAR AS IT REASONABLY COULD
WHEN IT FELT THAT LEGITIMATE CASES INVOLVING FAMILY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 12634 02 OF 02 231149Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W
----------002280 231156Z /11
R 230928Z DEC 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 12634

REUNIONS WERE BEING THWARTED BY ARBITRARY AND UNREASONABLE
GOVERNMENT PROHIBITIONS. HOCKE OBSERVED THAT THE ADOPTION
OF THE FOURTH CONVENTION HAD FAILED BY ONE VOTE WITHIN THE
ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, BUT GAVE HIS OPINION THAT, EVEN HAD IT
BEEN ADOPTED, THE SAME STANDS COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY
THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RELATIVE TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITOR-
IES.

7. THIS WAS THE FIRST VISIT BY THE ICRC TO ISRAEL SINCE
1973, HOCKE SAID, DUE TO THE UPHEAVALS AND UNCERTAINTIES
RESULTING FROM THE YOM KIPPUR CONFLICT AND ITS AFTERMATH.
NONETHELESS, ICRC FELT THAT THE VISIT COULD NO LONGER BE
DELAYED, LARGELY BECAUSE IT SENSED A TENDENCY ON THE PART
OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN
THE ATTITUDES OF THE RED CROSS MISSION MEMBERS WITHIN
ISRAEL AND THE COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA. FURTHER,
IT FELT THAT ICRC HAD TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUE FEELINGS OF
THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS AND IN AREAS IN WHICH THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

COMMITTEE FELT IT HAD A DIRECT CONCERN, AND WHERE ITS
REPUTATION AND INTEGRITY WERE ENGAGED. IN BRIEF, ICRC
FELT THAT IT COULD NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHIN ISRAEL
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THEN EXISTING, AND IT MIGHT WELL HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 12634 02 OF 02 231149Z

TAKEN THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS MISSION HAD THERE NOT
BEEN SOME YIELD ON THE PART OF THE GOI CONCERNING THE
PRISONERS AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

8. QUESTIONED AS TO THE EFFECT UPON ICRC REPRESENTATION
IN ISRAEL OF THE NEW AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1978, HOCKE SAID THAT THE ICRC MISSION
WOULD BE INCREASED ONLY MARGINALLY FROM ITS PRESENT COM-
PLEMENT OF SOME 25 FOREIGN AND 15 LOCAL PERSONNEL.
VANDEN HEUVEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA12634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770479-0786
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771223/aaaaasox.tel
Line Count: 190
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 94c5cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 18089, 78 TEL AVIV 10362, 78 JERUSALEM 2093
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 140928
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI/ICRC MEETINGS AND AGREEMENT
TAGS: SHUM, IS, ICRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/94c5cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009